

[23 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

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11.	Jaipur	Hindi, Rajasthani, Sindhi
12.	Jalandhar	Punjabi, Hindi, Dogri, Himachali, Haryanavi and Urdu
13.	Kolkata	Bangla, Urdu, Nepali, Santhal!
14.	Lucknow	Hindi, Urdu
15.	Mumbai	Marathi, Hindi, Sindhi and English

Implementation of 'Conditional Access System'

†168. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made so far with regard to the implementation of 'Conditional Access System' in Delhi, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities;
- (b) whether Hon'ble High Court have passed any order in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Government has on 31.7.2006 notified implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS) in four metros with effect from 31.12.2006 in pursuance of Delhi High Court order dated 20.7.2006. the Government has also on 31.7.2006 notified Cable Television Networks Rules for smooth implementation of CAS. There rules specify time bound activities for Government, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Broadcasters, MSOs and Cable Operators in order to ensure smooth implementation of CAS.

Regulation of private TV Channels

169. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of private TV channels are conducting a variety of entertainment shows;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether many of them, particularly, dance shows, are bordering on obscenity;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce a system for regulating the content of such shows; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to monitor the violations of the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

(c) and (d) All programmes have to be within the parameters laid down under the above Rules. The IMC, either *suo-motu* or on receipt of complaints, suggests action against the offending broadcaster and action is taken by the Ministry, thereafter, as per rules. At present there is no pre-censorship of programme on private TV channels and it is not being contemplated to specifically regulate the dance shown as they too have to follow the Programme and Advertising Codes.

Recent happenings in the UNI

170. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been- drawn to the happenings in the United News of India (UNI) where the Board of Directors is moving towards setting a major stake of the news agency to a single media group, Zee Tele Films; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to stall this move in defence of the founding principles of the organization-press freedom, free flow of impartial news coverage and competition set by first Prime Minister of the country in 1961?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of selling of shares of UNI to a media group is presently *subjudice*.